

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 EUR-12 INR-07 RSC-01 /034 W

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R 062045Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL CURACAO

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2096

CAMCARIBSEAFRON ROOS RDS PR

CNO WASHDC

UNCLAS CURACAO 0007

DEPT FOR BURKE AND HIGH ARA/CAR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, OCLR, NA, NL

SUBJECT: REQUESTS FOR CLEARANCE PROCEDURE SIMPLIFICATION  
FOR US NAVY SHIP VISITS IN NA

1. US NAVY SHIPS VISITING THE NA NOW MUST GO THROUGH A CUMBERSOME CLEARANCE PROCEDURE BY FIRST GOING TO U.S. EMBASSY THE HAGUE, WHICH IN TURN TAKES THE MATTER UP WITH THE GON FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHICH IN TURN CONSULTS WITH GNA REPRESENTATIVE IN HOLLAND, WHO NEXT ASKS PERMISSION OF GOVERNOR OF THE NA, WHO CLEARS WITH DUTCH FLAG OFFICER NA. CONGEN ALSO GIVES ITS CONCURRENCE TO USN AFTER CONSULTATION WITH DUTCH FLAG OFFICER NA AND NA OFFICIALS. CLEARANCE GRANTED BY GOVERNOR AND DUTCH FLAG OFFICER MUST BE RETURNED TO HOLLAND THROUGH REVERSE OF ABOVE PROCESS AND US EMBASSY THE HAGUE, CAN THEN INFORM US NAVY THAT VISIT MAY TAKE PLACE.

2. THIS CUMBERSOME PROCEDURE RECENTLY RESULTED IN A MOST EMBARRASSING INCIDENT WHEREBY CLEARANCE WAS NOT RECEIVED IN TIME FOR A USN SHIP TO CALL AT ST. MAARTEN. THE USN SHIP, AS WELL AS MANY CITIZENS OF ST. MAARTEN, WAS GREATLY INCONVENINENCED. MERCHANTS AND STORES OF ST. MAARTEN HAD BEEN ALERTED TO OPEN OVER THE WEEKEND (AS IS CUSTOMARY, WHEN SHIPS CALL AT ST. MAARTEN). THE  
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GOVERNOR HAD PLANNED TO GREET THE SHIP AND SOCIAL EVENTS

HAD TO BE CANCELLED. THE FRUSTRATIONS CAUSED BY THE INCIDENT DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TO GOOD WILL ON ST. MAARTEN.

3. I HAVE DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM AT SOME LENGTH WITH COMMODORE LANDZAAT, (FLAG OFFICER NA) AND NA GOVERNOR LEITO. USA AIRCRAFT CLEARANCE TO LAND AND OVERFLY THE NA IS NOW GRANTED LOCALLY BY NA GOVERNOR UPON RECEIPT OF REQUEST FROM CONGEN; IN THE CASE OF US NAVY SHIPS, GON INVARIABLY GRANTS CLEARANCE ON GNA RECOMMENDATION. BOTH COMMODORE LANDZAAT AND GOVERNOR LEITO STATE THEY WOULD BE PLEASED TO ALSO SIMPLIFY PROCEDURE FOR US NAVY SHIPS TO VISIT THE NA. GOVERNOR LEITO HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE USG APPROACH THE GON AND REQUEST THEM TO PLEASE PROVIDE HIM A BLANKET CLEARANCE ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. UNDER THIS PROCEDURE THE US NAVY COULD THEN REQUEST CLEARANCE DIRECTLY THROUGH THE CONGEN AND THE NA GOVERNOR COULD GRANT IMMEDIATE CLEARANCE HERE AFTER CONSULTATION WITH FLAG OFFICER NA.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IF THE EMBASSY PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION, TI IS REQUESTED THAT IT PLEASE TAKE THIS MATTER UP WITH APPROPRIATE GON OFFICIALS TO SET UP A PROCEDURE WHEREBY THE GOVERNOR OF THE NA WOULD BE GIVEN A BLANKET AUTHORITY FOR A STIPULATED TIME (SUGGESTED FOR ONE YEAR) TO PERMIT US NAVY SHIPS TO CALL AT THE NA.  
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